

US House passes Republican
spending plan *pg 11*



Drug-resistant bacteria contami-
nates 25 % of US meat *pg 7*

Dutch Minister of Defense visits Aruba



Yesterday, accompanied by Arms Forces General, Peter van Uhm, Dutch Minister of Defense Hans Hillen arrived on Aruba. The Dutch Minister orientated himself of the program of the Dutch Marine Base situated here in Savaneta.

Hillen was received by Prime Minister Mike Eman, who once again expressed satisfaction for the Dutch Minister's decision to allow the Marine Base to remain here in Aruba. Hillen, reportedly, has much appreciation for Aruba and has visited here quite often in the past. The Dutch Minister considers the reduction in defense spending not simply desirable but very necessary. He believes that... "Cutting down on expenses in the Netherlands, including that of our defense is a necessity. In this manner we can maintain our prosperity and freedom into the future. For this purpose we need an army ready

on all fronts, an army that we can count on."

Yesterday Hans Hillen was a guest of the Royal Marines here. During his visit he met with the 32nd infantry brigade. This unit stands permanently ready to assist in the event of any emergency related to hurricanes throughout the Caribbean region. Hillen also visited the Aruba Coastguard and the HR. MS. Rotterdam ship that entered our harbor with a ceremonial protocol yesterday morning.

In our region, the Dutch Marines are occupied with much more than just security issues. Hillen apparently is very excited about what the Marines are doing here, and it is for this reason that he chose to allow the base to remain open here. "Along with the defense of our country, the Armed Force is a partner in the war against drugs, terrorism, illegal immigration and pirating.

Continued on page 2

Minister of Justice and Education announces human trafficking awareness campaign

Aruba's Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, welcomed media to the Government House press room to introduce Jeanette Richarson-Bas, National Coordinator of the Aruba Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling initiative and Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen from Holland, the Dutch National Reporter on Trafficking of Human Beings.

The latter's visit to Aruba is tied into the launching of a public awareness campaign on the island toward recognizing the existence of human trafficking existing here; often not as traditionally defined in the wholesale movement of young woman being forced into prostitution. The two officials warned of the "Lover-Boy" syndrome of men convincing their "one and only" partner into supporting them via prostitution as proof of their love, often maintaining a "stable" of unauthorized and illegal sex workers.

"Trafficking in human beings (THB) is regarded both in the Netherlands and internationally as a serious crime and a violation of the victim's human rights. Combating THB must be given the highest priority," is the stated policy of the offices of the National Reporter on Menshandel (human trafficking) or NRM. Their first report of eight was presented in 2002 by Anna Korvinus, First Na-



Campaign coordinator for Aruba Jeannine Richardson Bas and From Holland Corinne Dettjeijer Vermeulen

tional Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. The 153-page report examined the practice in regards to prostitution and migrant smuggling, its characteristics, perspective and approaches, along with the motivating factors. This included a breakdown of victims according to age, origin and sex, methods of recruitment, transport and exploitation, based on information gleaned from support organizations.

Continued on page 3



Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Dutch Minister of Defense visits Aruba

Continued from page 2



This requires much support for now and for the future. Our military men must continue doing what Holland wants to see them doing, stay in action to protect our freedom," according to Hans Hillen.

Hillen also met with Aruba's Governor, Fredis Refunjol. He will later continue his fact finding visit to

Bonaire and then to Curacao. In Bonaire he is expected to meet Bonaire Mayor Glenn Thode. In Curacao he will meet with Governor Frits Goedgedrag and the General of the Marine Force of the Caribbean Region, Mr. Dick Swijgman. He will rap up his visit at the Suffisant Marine Base in Curacao.

Dutch anti-Islam MP seeks new judges for trial

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Dutch anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders wants the withdrawal of a new panel of judges chosen to try him for hate speech, his lawyer said Friday, claiming they were biased.

"Mr presiding judge, I will demand the recusal of your chamber," lawyer Bram Moszkowicz told judge Marcel van Oosten at a hearing in Amsterdam six months after Wilders succeeded in having a first panel of judges removed from the case.

Wilders and his lawyer question the new judges' partiality based on their refusal to open a perjury probe of a witness accused of lying to the court.

An independent chamber of judges has been assigned to decide on the latest application, and will hand down their decision on Monday.



The trial of Wilders, who leads the Netherlands' third biggest political party, opened in October last year but was abruptly halted three weeks later when the judges trying him were ordered to step down by a panel of their peers who upheld the politician's claims of bias.

In March, the new judges ruled that the trial must go ahead, dismissing Wilders' claims that they had no jurisdiction in the case.

Wilders, 47, faces five counts of giving offence to

Muslims and of inciting hatred against Muslims and people of non-Western immigrant origin, particularly Moroccans.

The allegations arise partly from the short film "Fitna", which catapulted Wilders to international notoriety in 2008 and in which he mixes Koranic verses with footage of extremist attacks.

In the film he likens the Koran to Hitler's "Mein Kampf".

The MP, whose Party for Freedom gives parliamentary support to a right-leaning coalition, faces up to a year in jail or a 7,600 euro (10,300 dollar) fine for comments made in his campaign to "stop the Islamisation of the Netherlands".

Prosecutors initially dismissed dozens of complaints against Wilders in June 2008 but were compelled by appeals judges to mount a case against him in 2010.

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Mother jailed eight years for son's cancer death

BOSTON, (AFP) - A US mother was sentenced yesterday to between eight and 10 years in prison for attempted murder by withholding anti-cancer drugs from her dying nine-year-old son.

The sentence for Kristen LaBrie, a single mother from Salem, Massachusetts, was less than the maximum possible of 20 years. Her jail time will be followed by five years probation.

The length of the prison sentence will depend on LaBrie's behavior behind bars.

During the trial, doctors testified that the boy, Jeremy Fraser, died from respiratory complications related to leukemia diagnosed in 2008. He was also autistic.

In 2006, the boy was first diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and doctors then

said he had an 85 to 90 percent chance of survival if he followed a two-year treatment plan. But his chances of survival diminished to only 25 to 30 percent with a bone marrow transplant to treat the leukemia.

Doctors following his case discovered the mother had failed to fill prescriptions.

LaBrie testified during her trial that she'd taken her son off the medications because she couldn't stand seeing the suffering caused by the strong side-effects.

At sentencing the judge said he was taking that testimony into account, but that this did not excuse LaBrie.

"I wish I could have done things differently. I wish I would have sought out help," she said. "I think about Jeremy every day and I wish he could be with me."

Canada PM accused of smearing ex-minister

OTTAWA, Canada (AFP) - A former Tory minister lashed out at her ex-boss Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the middle of an election Friday for booting her from the Conservative caucus over ultimately unsubstantiated claims.

Now seeking re-election as an independent candidate, Helena Guergis told a press conference Harper "tossed (her) under a bus" last year, and offered no explanation for her ouster nor a chance to defend herself.

A federal police investigation cleared Guergis of fraud, extortion and involvement with prostitutes, including snorting cocaine off a prostitute's breasts.

But the prime minister's office continued to run a "destructive campaign" against her and smearing her reputation

with "false allegations," Guergis said.

"Not only was it made to seem I was guilty of conduct that has never been disclosed to me ... the prime minister's office still made it seem as though I was guilty of something even after I had been proven innocent," she said.

A private investigator last year alerted a Conservative party lawyer that Guergis may be vulnerable to blackmail after an associate of her husband boasted of having cellphone pictures of the couple partying with "high class escorts when cocaine was being snorted."

Guergis lost her job as women's minister as a result and became the target of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation based on accusations passed on by Harper's office.

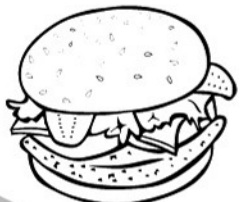
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HR MS Rotterdam salutes Aruba Human trafficking awareness campaign...

Continued from page 1


In the Netherlands the offence of THB is related to prostitution. The offence is punishable by article 250a of the Penal Code. According to the law, THB is defined by "the placing and holding of human beings in prostitution by means of force, placing and holding minors in prostitution and recruiting, transporting and abducting someone to place him or her in prostitution in another country, irrespective of whether that happens voluntarily or involuntarily."

According to the report, THB (art. 250a Penal Code) is distinguished from migrant smuggling (art. 197a Penal Code) and "are often confused in everyday language. Although there are similarities, the two offences are fundamentally different in their legal essence. Migrant smuggling is assisting people for money or other gain to enter or stay in the Netherlands illegally. The difference between hard line THB - exploitation in prostitution or (from an international point of view) in another economic sector - lies in particular in the interest encroached and in the protection of the victim of the offence. In the case of migrant smuggling the territorial integrity of a state comes into play."

Ten years of studying the problem, laws combating the issue and enforcement of those laws, along with society's attitude, contributed to the founding of the current campaign on Aruba to combat the belief among the populace that such things are not happening here, and to make the community an integral part of the prevention and victim protection process. Posters in Dutch, Papiamentu and English demand the community to "Open Your Eyes!"

by Rosalie Klein

Open your eyes!..




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Rotterdam Crew Salute Aruba



Marines stationed on island provide gun salute

The Landing Platform Dock, (LPD) HRMS Rotterdam first anchored off Aruba's shores on Thursday, February 17, at the commencement of a four month tour of duty in cooperation with the Coast Guard of Aruba and Curacao. After a day of training exercises with Royal Dutch Marines stationed on the island, they returned to Curacao, which is their center of operations.

The principal purpose of this mission is to intercept any smuggling operations from Latin America and control drug trafficking in the area; 4 helicopters from the ship have been coordinating with Coast Guard vessels for air to surface surveillance of the waters around the three islands. However, coast guard duties, humanitarian tasks and assisting during disasters are also part of

the ship's purpose. It is uniquely suited to rescue operations because of its amphibious capability and large capacity to house and transport personnel and evacuees as well as provide fresh water from the on-board desalination plant.

The Rotterdam has the ability to embark, transport and disembark a full Marine Corps battalion, including the associated combat and logistic support vehicles and equipment. The ship carries provisions and stores for battalion transportation for more than ten days. The vessel is also capable of transferring reserve forces and for the evacuation of casualties. The ship is operated by a crew of 124, including 13 officers. Accommodation is also provided for a fully equipped marine battalion or up to 613 troops. There are facilities to

transport 170 armored personnel carriers, or 33 main battle tanks, and also docking facilities for up to 6 landing craft.

The advent of an LPD such as the HRMS Rotterdam on mission in the region is an historic event; excited school-children and island residents lined the shores of Oranjestad to watch it steam past at 9:00 AM yesterday morning to perform a traditional gun salute to Aruba, which was returned by an honor guard from locally stationed Royal Dutch Marines.

The occasion was precipitated by a visit from Dutch Minister of Defense Hans Hillen and Chief of Defense General Peter van Uhm who received press and island dignitaries, including Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman, on board the ship in the afternoon.

A 24-hour hotline number, 592-3231 now exists to report suspected cases of THB.

Individuals uncertain of their status under the local and Dutch laws should ask these questions of their situation:

- Did someone take away your ID or documents?
- Is someone forcing you to work to pay off a debt?
- Do you have to work a different job or more than the hours agreed upon?
- Is someone forcing you to work or have sex against your will?
- Is someone threatening or hurting you?
- Is your freedom of movement limited or controlled?

If living with these conditions or knowing someone who is, then it can be assumed they are likely eligible for assistance under the law. There is a Bureau Slachtofferhulp, or Victims Assistance Commission, a part of the island government, to provide support and counseling. The office of the National Coordinator for Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling can also be reached via e-mail: LCMM@kparuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein

Aruba Aloe Balm celebrates worldwide success with Alhydran



Recently, Managing Director Louis Posner presented a night full of revelations to a packed ballroom in the Marriott Resort; amongst the attendants were Prime Minister Mr. Mike Eman and Mr. Paul Croes, President of Parliament.

To celebrate 27 years of working with Professor Dr. Hans Junginger of the University of Leiden in The Netherlands and 10 years of working with the Burn Center of the University of Gent in Belgium and its Research Coordinator Henk Hoeksema, both were invited to Aruba to give a lecture about their work with Aruba Aloe and share its importance with the Aruban community.

Henk Hoeksema was first introduced to Aruba Aloe in 2001 by one of his Dutch patients at the Burn Center in Gent, who had received product samples of the original Aruba Aloe Burn Balm from Aruba Aloe's Dr. Koos Veel to treat his burn wounds. As both Henk and his patient were amazed with the results, Henk contacted Aruba Aloe and started to work with the Burn

unfactured exclusively for BAP Medical.

The Burn Center started to perform several pilot studies to research the possibility to enhance hydration of the scar, resulting in less itching, less redness, improved elasticity and a better aesthetic outcome. Based on the feedback, Aruba Aloe Balm's Dr. Koos Veel continued to improve the formula until the current formula. By now more than 1000 patients have been treated successfully with the cream in the Gent Burn Center alone.

In his presentation, Henk Hoeksema passionately showed the audience his experience of 10 years with spectacular results of treating patients with Aruba Aloe's

portant to improve the elasticity of the scar, and showed many results in patients when Alhydran significantly improved skin damages and patients' quality of life. He also showed that the results with Alhydran were not confined to burn wounds but also to successes with chronic skin defect such as Diabetic foot ulcers and also to the use of the cream on already existing (hypertrophic) scars.

The other guest speaker of the night, Professor Dr. Hans Junginger, is Aruba Aloe's Senior Scientist and he has been advising Aruba Aloe for 27 years in the process of developing new products and improving current products.

He was recently awarded with the very prestigious



AAPS Dr. Rainer Hoffman Product through Science Award for his work at Aruba Aloe Balm. The award recognizes scientists who have applied their knowledge/research to practice and made it into commercially available products; it is given out by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. In his presentation, Professor Hans Junginger showed the attendants the way the Aruba Aloe Vera plants are processed and the science behind the products he has developed for Aruba Aloe Balm.

Closing the presentation, managing director Louis Posner proudly revealed that Alhydran is currently available in 29 countries worldwide, which will be expanded with 13 more countries in 2012.



Balm product on a number of patients. Soon all patients of the Burn Center were treated with the new cream and in 2005 the product was commercialized into "Alhydran", man-

medical product Alhydran. It has proved to be very effective for usage with many types of scars and severe burn wounds. Henk Hoeksema emphasized that hydration is extremely im-

Israeli Folk Dance Group Regesh with presentation on May 5



Israeli folk dance is the amalgam of the experiences of the Jewish people in the many places where they settled in the Diaspora and the miracle of rebirth in the independent State of Israel. Rhythm and movement become the media through which their message is reaching us today. It is the message of a millenary culture given living expression by the Regesh group.

The Israeli Folk Dance Group Regesh (Hebrew for "Feelings") is part of Maccabi, a 77 year old Jewish cultural organization in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It was founded in 1990 and presently has 26 members in its cast, under the direction of Prof. Dany Chaves. With their typical costumes, modern and traditional melodies and allusive images they create a unique show.

Regesh has performed in Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay, Spain and Aruba. Regesh also performed at the

Teatro San Martin, a famed theatre in Buenos Aires, to rave reviews. The group took part in the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel, where they were invited to perform in Kfar Saba and Ra'anana, as guests of the mayor of Ra'anana.

Their repertoire includes typical Israeli folk dances, "horas", "debkas, Oriental and Hassidic dances blended with tango, tap and Russian dances.

Outstanding among their shows are "The Creation," "Israel Dances its History" and a "Tribute to Artists Who Were Persecuted in the Holocaust"

On Thursday, May 5 at 8:00 P.M. they will pay homage to "Icons of Jewish Culture": Anne Frank, Daniel Barenboim, Woody Allen, Barbara Streisand and Marc Chagall at Cas di Cultura.

Tickets will be on sale as of Monday, April 18, at Plaza Book Shop, van Dorp and Ecco (Main St.)

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WEB moving along with New Water Plants to reduce dependence of Fuel Oil



WEB NV (Aruba Water & Electricity Plant) is doing its utmost to reduce the cost and dependence on Fuel Oil by investing in new technology. By increasing efficiency and reducing the consumption of Fuel Oil in the production of potable water, we can reduce our expenses and filter our savings down to our customers with better tariffs, according to WEB NV.

With respect to the reduction of the consumption of Fuel Oil and their depend-

ence on Fuel Oil in general, the company has done much in recent years which has already proven to be very fruitful.

In 2008 they introduced phase 2 of the RECIP plant and phase 1 of the SWRO project. These two projects resulted in substantial reduction in the consumption of Fuel Oil: an average reduction of 6.166 barrels per day to 5.635 barrels per day. Again in 2010 there was an additional reduction to 4.922

barrels per day.

There is currently the construction of phase 2 of the AWRO project which will provide another reduction of consumption and dependence on Fuel Oil. By May 2012 when this project is completed along with other innovative technologies at Web, it is expected that they will reduce consumption to about 3.747 barrels per day. This represents a whopping 40% reduction of Fuel Oil over a six year span.

Unfortunately the reduction of Fuel Oil consumption has not had any effect on the price that the consumer pays for utilities because of the continuous increases in the price of Fuel Oil on the international market during the very same period of WEB's innovative projects.

WEB has invested in the first new technological water plant, the Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plant, which is the technology of membrane which filters sea water through membranes which in turn produces an exceptionally high quality potable water.

The major benefit of this technology is that it is 75% more efficient in the use of energy, which means it utilizes much less Fuel Oil to produce the high quality water we are used to in



Aruba.

In recent days they have begun preparing the concrete foundation for the second phase of the SWRO project at the Balashi plant. Once completed, this plant will have a capacity of producing 24 thousand tons of water per day. This means that 73% of Aruba's water will be produced using this new technology. WEB's motto is "More Efficiency, Less Fuel."

Sci-Tech

Philippines launches electric tricycles



MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines wants to replace millions of petrol-powered tricycles with electric ones as part of efforts to clean up the nation's polluting mass transport system, President Benigno Aquino said Friday.

The government will initially replace 20,000 tricycles that ply minor streets across the capital Manila and eventually expand the project throughout the country, Aquino said in a speech to government employees.

It is hoped the scheme will save the impoverished country tens of millions of dollars annually.

"The (project) is an ambitious multi-year plan to wean public utility vehicles from the use of gasoline and diesel and to encourage them to shift to alternatives like natural gas, electricity and hybrid engines," he said.

"I would like to see the day when nearly all public utility vehicles... run on alternative

fuel, freeing the public transport sector and commuters from the threat of unreasonably high oil prices and unhealthy levels of air pollution."

"Every 20,000 e-trikes that are introduced to Manila's streets will save the Philippines 100,000 litres of foreign fuel imports each day, saving the country about 35 million dollars annually," Hasnie said.

Though the electronic tricycles, which use rechargeable lithium ion batteries, are costlier, older petrol tricycles are more than twice as expensive to operate in the long run, Hasnie added.

The carbon footprints of the e-trikes, which are locally produced, would be less than a quarter of conventional tricycles, the ADB said.

ADB officials said the Manila-based lender was now in talks with the Philippine government on supporting the expansion of the project.

Want to save fuel? Fly a kite



Close-up of a SkySails towing kite as it propels the cargo ship MV Theseus in the North Sea, off the German coast, seen during a demonstration of the SkySails auxiliary wind propulsion system.

THE NORTH SEA, Germany (AFP) — The blue-hulled vessel would slip by unnoticed on most seas if not for the white kite, high above her prow, towing her to what its creators hope will be a bright, wind-efficient future.

The enormous kite, which

looks like a paraglider, works in tandem with the ship's engines, cutting back on fuel consumption, costs, and carbon footprint.

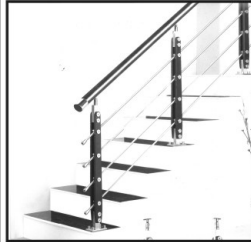



"Using kites you can harness more energy than with any other type of wind-powered equipment," said German inventor Stephan Wrage, whose company SkySails is looking for lift-off on the back of worldwide efforts to boost renewable energy.

The 160-square-metre (524-square-foot) kite, tethered to a yellow rope, can sail 500 metres into the skies where winds are both stronger and more stable, according to the 38-year-old Wrage.

The secret to the kite's efficiency lies in its speed and computer-controlled flight pattern.

The idea is for the kite to

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RIM shares drop as PlayBook panned



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Shares in Canada's Research In Motion fell on Thursday as the BlackBerry maker's new tablet computer, the PlayBook, received desultory initial reviews.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based RIM saw its share price shed 1.66 percent on Wall Street to \$53.92 in a market that finished slightly higher overall.

The PlayBook, which is to hit store shelves on Tuesday, is RIM's answer to Apple's

hot-selling iPad and its first foray outside the mobile phone realm.

RIM is offering three models of the PlayBook. A version with 16 gigabytes of storage will cost \$499, a 32GB model will sell for \$599 and one with 64GB will cost \$699. The prices are the same as for comparable models of the iPad.

The PlayBook features Wi-Fi connectivity to the Internet while Apple sells both Wi-Fi and 3G versions of the iPad.

RIM describes the PlayBook as the first "professional-grade" tablet and has stressed its integration with its BlackBerry smartphone, a favorite among many business users.

BlackBerry users can pair their handset with the PlayBook using a Bluetooth connection, a feature called BlackBerry Bridge, to view their email, calendar, contacts or other content.

But David Pogue, the influential technology columnist for The New York Times, complained in his PlayBook review that the PlayBook "does not have e-mail, calendar or address book apps of its own."

"You read that right," Pogue said. "RIM has just shipped a BlackBerry product that cannot do email. It must be skating season in hell."

Pogue noted that the PlayBook can play Flash video,

which the iPad can't, but its GPS does not offer turn-by-turn navigation software.

The PlayBook has a seven-inch (17.8-centimeter) touchscreen, smaller than the iPad's 9.7 inches (24.7-cm) and at less than a pound (425 grams), the PlayBook is lighter than the iPad 2's 1.3 pounds (590 grams).

But Pogue said that although the PlayBook "looks and feels great," it is about half an inch too wide to fit into the breast pocket of a jacket.

Pogue and Walter Mossberg, the technology columnist for The Wall Street Journal, also pointed out that while Apple offers 300,000 applications for the iPad, RIM has just a handful for the PlayBook.

Mossberg said the PlayBook is more a "companion to a BlackBerry phone rather than a fully independent device."

"That may be fine for dedicated BlackBerry owners, but it isn't so great for people with other phones," Mossberg said. "I can't recommend the PlayBook over a fully standalone tablet, except possibly for folks whose BlackBerrys never leave their sides."

RIM co-chief executive Jim Balsillie, appearing on CNBC television, said the PlayBook is "super, super fast with true multi-tasking capability."

"You get the full Web with full Flash," Balsillie said.

"The most important thing for us is to have a future-proof operating platform for mobility," he said. "And we have that."

Apple sold over 15 million iPads last year and scores of other companies have been scrambling to release their own tablet computers in a bid to grab a share of the fast-growing market.

Health & Living

Drug-resistant bacteria contaminates 25 pct of US meat



WASHINGTON (AFP) — A sampling of grocery store meat in five US cities has shown a type of drug-resistant bacteria is contained in about one quarter of beef, chicken, pork and turkey for sale, according to a study.

Staphylococcus aureus, a bacteria that can cause skin infections, pneumonia, sepsis or endocarditis in people with weak hearts, was found in 47 percent of samples, said the study in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, released on Friday.

More than half -- 52 percent -- of the infected samples contained a tough strain of S. aureus that was resistant to at least three types of antibiotics.

Most of the time, the bacteria would be killed off during cooking, but risks of

contamination can come from handling raw meat in the kitchen and touching other utensils, or from eating meat that is not fully cooked.

"For the first time, we know how much of our meat and poultry is contaminated with antibiotic-resistant Staph, and it is substantial," said Lance Price of the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, and senior author of the study.

"The fact that drug-resistant S. aureus was so prevalent, and likely came from the food animals themselves, is troubling, and demands attention to how antibiotics are used in food-animal production today."

S. aureus is not among the four bacteria routinely tested in meat by the US government: Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli, and Enterococcus.

More than two million people in the United States are infected with these bacteria annually, and hundreds die. The young and the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are most at risk.

The 136 samples that were tested included 80 brands of

meat and were taken from 26 retail grocery stores in five cities: Los Angeles; Chicago; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Flagstaff, Arizona; and the US capital, Washington.

The report said the bacteria was found inside the meat and therefore was not likely to have come from handling.

Instead the likely culprit was "densely-stocked industrial farms, where food animals are steadily fed low doses of antibiotics... ideal breeding grounds for drug-resistant bacteria that move from animals to humans," the study said.

"Antibiotics are the most important drugs that we have to treat Staph infections; but when Staph are resistant to three, four, five or even nine different antibiotics -- like we saw in this study -- that leaves physicians few options," Price said.

The study did not assess the risk to the population posed by the resistant staph strain.

"Now we need to determine what this means in terms of risk to the consumer," said co-author Paul Keim, director of the Center for Microbial Genetics and Genomics at Northern Arizona University.



KIEV, The Ukraine -- An activist of the women's movement FEMEN sick with cancer of the lymphatic gland Alina Kovalchuk, 20, (C) holds a placard reading "I am ill with cancer, the minister is a fool!" during her and the other activists' protest in front of the Ukraine's Health Care Ministry in Kiev. They demanded an increase in financing of oncological programs for those sick with cancer as a result of consequences of Chernobyl catastrophe and an end to what they claim is embezzling of state property by the medical officials.

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Store blood cells from Fukushima workers - Lancet letter

PARIS, France (AFP) — A group of Japanese doctors on Friday urged workers at the Fukushima nuclear plant to have their blood stemcells stored as a safeguard should they be exposed to life-threatening levels of radiation.

The technique entails storing so-called autologous peripheral blood stem cells (PBSCs), which are immature cells that differentiate into blood cells.

PBSC transplants are often used in cancer treatment to boost depleted blood cell counts among patients who have had radiotherapy to destroy a tumour.

In a letter to the British medical weekly The Lancet, cancer specialists at four Japanese hospitals argued that it made sense to store blood from the hundreds of workers battling to save the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant from catastrophe.

These teams are working in extremely hazardous conditions, removing irradiated water from the site and trying to cool overheated fuel in three crippled reactors, they

said.

"The process to completely shut down the reactors is expected to take years. The risk of accidental radiation exposure will thus accumulate for the nuclear workers and banking of their PBSCs will become increasingly important," they added.

The letter's five authors are led by Tetsuya Tanimoto of the Cancer Institute at the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research and Shuichi Taniguchi of the Toranomon Hospital, both in Tokyo.

The doctors complained Japan's nuclear industry resisted storing the workers' PBSCs because it was fearful of what this could do its reputation.

"The most important mission is to save the nuclear workers' lives and to protect the local communities," the letter said.

"Such an approach would be the industry's best defence: if a fatal accident happened to the nuclear workers, the nuclear power industry of Japan would collapse."



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Radisson enchants ATCA delegates under the stars, at the conclusion of the Annual Tourism Conference Aruba 2011



An elegant evening was orchestrated by the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, designed the inform and entertain the delegates of the Annual Tourism Conference Aruba 2011.

The gathering brought key marketing players of the North American market to Aruba for three days of intense business sessions, and three nights of tropical enchantment, April 11 – 14, 2011.

Thirty-six tour operators and 19 sales representatives of

Aruba in major cities in North America & Canada, enjoyed an extravagant production under the stars, their barefoot toes cooling in the sugar-white sand of Palm Beach.

The evening was attended by Aruba's Minister of Tourism and Transport Otmar Oduber, who addressed the delegates sharing his vision of Aruba's tourism future. His remarks were followed by a warm welcome by General Manager Rob Smith who briefed the dignitaries on the state of the resort's US\$28 million refresh.

He then went on to intro-

duce the Director of Sales Arienne Valentino, who thanked the travel professionals for taking the time to visit Aruba and get to know the Radisson team, prepared to do business with individuals and groups in North America.

Dinner featured interesting fusion dishes prepared by Executive Chef Hector Espinoza, mixing local ingredients with favorite recipes, including Cactus Soup, and a grand Surf & Turf combo platter, chased by the chef's delectable chocolate mousse for dessert.

The evening's entertainment included a fun slide pres-



entation of ATCA's events in Aruba and DJ music by top names about to arrive on Aruba for the Memorial Day

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Bier Hier was the winner of the 6th edition of the Plaza Quiz Night Series



Bier Hier is the name of the strong team of quiz fanatics, who always finish in the top three. Last Tuesday evening at Café the Plaza was no exception: the team scored time and time again and finished first during the sixth edition of the weekly Quiz Night Series. The Power Ladies were Bier Hier's biggest competitors; they were set on their heels by the team

Purgatory.

With two more weeks to go to complete the 8 rounds of the series, the overall Standings are

1. Bier Hier;
2. Synergy and
3. Purgatory.

On May 3, after the Easter Holidays, the Tuesday Quiz Night Series at Café the Plaza will be resumed.

ImSan launches its new logo



Introductie logo IMSAN door mevr. Monica Nuboor



SAN NICOLAS -- During a special presentation on Wednesday, April 13, the management of ImSan (Instituto Medico San Nicolas) presented its new logo to the employees. The presentation was given by Mr. Marion Agunbero, Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Mrs. Monica Nuboor, Medical Coordinator & CPR Instructor, where an explanation was given how the new logo was created and what it represents.

"The development of the new logo and house-style was initiated after research on Aruba confirmed that there are several names in use by the Aruban community for this institution. Also a lot of people don't know which medical services are provided by ImSan," Mr. Agunbero explained. At the moment the services consist of: E.R., diabetic center, 2 family practi-



tioners, x-ray, eye-clinic, wound-clinic, and a station of the Aruban ambulance service. In the near future some new functions will be added. "With this new logo, ImSan wants to bring the institution closer to the local community. The new logo originates from the "star of

life," which traditionally has been used as a means of identification for medical personnel, equipment and vehicles. For ImSan the "star of life" symbolizes the people of Aruba. The pentagon centrally located in the logo illustrates the role ImSan occupies, in the heart of the Aruban community. The slogan "Where people meet care" highlights the promise of ImSan to the community. From now on the new logo will be used on all stationary, signage in and around the clinic, personnel advertisements, uniforms and of course a new website will follow soon, Mrs. Nuboor explained.

After the presentation, the employees received a cake with the new logo on it. With this launch ImSan initiates the upcoming new plans," Mr. Agunbero explained.



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ACROSS

1. Pointy tool
4. Business collaborative (abbr.)
7. Kennedy or Rogers
11. Liquefy
13. Sound of disapproval
14. Soon
15. Light-loving insect
16. Suffix for a doctrine
17. Pen points

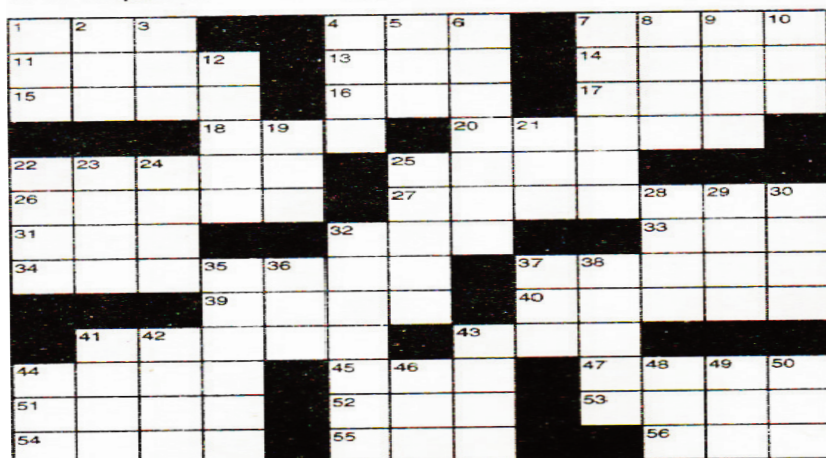
18. Asner and Begley, Jr.
20. Acts sullen
22. "Rah!" or "Go team!"
25. "GWTW" mansion
26. Mass meeting
27. John Bull's country
31. Objective
32. Stipend
33. Oahu wreath
34. Denver football team
37. Of the sun
39. Roof part
40. Steal
41. Canadian flag leaf
43. She-sheep
44. ___ Ness

45. Lipstick shade
47. Kelly of morning TV
51. Dull person
52. Angle starter
53. Fruit rind
54. Dublin dish
55. Still
56. Finale

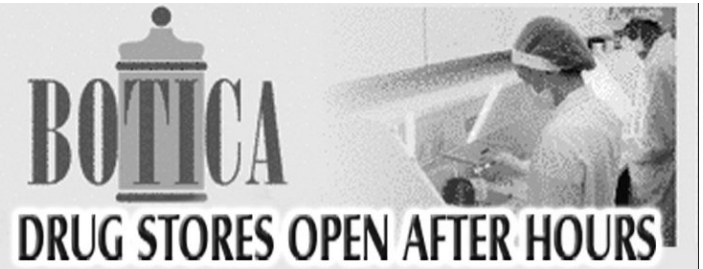
DOWN

1. Modern bank teller (abbr.)
2. "Which guy?"
3. Nero's language (abbr.)
4. Long-legged bird
5. Digits (abbr.)

6. Visitors
7. Handbook
8. First (abbr.)
9. Unruly crowds
10. Those holding office
12. Spinning ___
19. Uninteresting
21. Gp.
22. July's zodiac symbol
23. Tresses
24. Actor Lincoln
25. Pester
28. For ___ care (2 wds.)
29. Tide type
30. Desperate
32. Indigence
35. William, to Andrew
36. ___ Ripken, Jr.
37. Wind dir.
38. People with debts
41. Debatable
42. Developer's purchase
43. Redraft
44. Pounds (abbr.)
46. Poetic "before"
48. Gen. Eisenhower
49. Lapel ornament
50. Common conjunction



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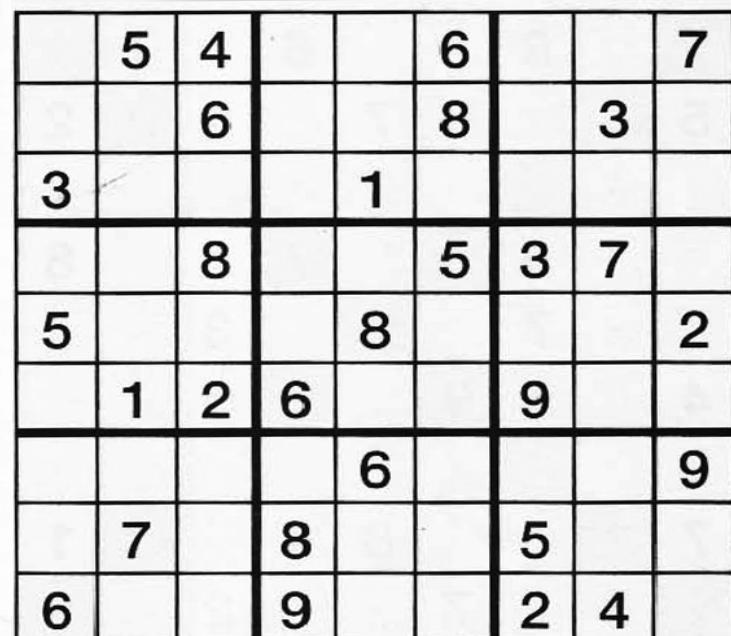
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6	8	7	1	9	5	3	2	
8	9	6	5	7	9	2	1	4
2	1	9	6	8	7	5	3	9
4	7	5	3	1	8	9	6	
9	6	8	7	1	9	2	3	5
5	3	7	8	2	9	6	1	
7	2	1	9	6	5	7	9	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
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In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS:

Japan minister praises G7 post-quake move on yen:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Japanese Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda praised Friday an intervention by advanced countries to force down the yen after it soared to troubling highs following the March 11 earthquake-tsunami disaster.

In their first such concerted effort in a decade, central banks of the Group of Seven economic powers -- the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan -- forcefully intervened in foreign exchange markets one week after the catastrophe, after the yen surged more than five percent against the dollar.

Both speculators and repatriation of funds were suspected as the cause, but the net result was a surge that the Japanese feared would interfere with stabilizing the economy and moving toward reconstruction.

Since then the yen has weakened somewhat as the impact of the disaster continues to hobble Japanese industry and commerce.

G20 weigh name-and-shame list for risky economies

WASHINGTON (AFP) – China, the United States and other leading economies are expected to be listed by the G20 for dangerous economic imbalances on Friday, but whether they will be publicly "named and shamed" remains unsettled.

The Group of 20 leading economic powers were moving to raise the pressure on 5-10 major global players for unhealthy and unsustainable fiscal and trade imbalances -- deficits in the US case and massive surpluses in China's, but also, for Japan, its enormous sovereign debt.

But in Washington gatherings finance ministers and central bankers of the elite group were undecided whether to make public the names, with some worried it could impact their ability to stabilize their economies.

Early yesterday the G20 advanced and emerging economies were near to agreeing the basis for a shortlist of economic malefactors.

IMF 'here to help' Arab states:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said Friday that the lender stood ready to offer financial support to Arab countries like Egypt and Tunisia if they ask for it.

"We're here to help," Strauss-Kahn said at a conference on the Middle East and North Africa at IMF headquarters in Washington. In Egypt and Tunisia, where revolutions have toppled long-time strongmen, revenue from sectors such as tourism may be less this year than last year, the IMF managing director said. The IMF "has learned lessons" from the recent political unrest in the region, he said.

The 187-nation institution created more than 60 years ago acts as a lender of last resort when member countries have nowhere to turn for financing, he said.

US House passes Republican spending plan

WASHINGTON, (AFP) – President Barack Obama's Republican foes in the US House of Representatives muscled their politically risky budget to passage Friday, calling it the cure to out-of-control government spending.

In an almost perfectly party-line vote, lawmakers voted 235-193 to approve the non-binding spending blueprint crafted by Republican Representative Paul Ryan and roundly denounced by Democrats from Obama on down.

Ryan's budget aims to cut some \$4.4 trillion from deficits over the next decade, slash taxes on the richest Americans and corporations, and cut the Medicare and Medicaid health programs for the elderly, poor, and disabled.

"It's a serious step in the right direction. And I'm really hopeful that the president will take his job as seriously as we're taking ours," Republi-

can House Speaker John Boehner said ahead of the vote.

The measure seemed sure to die in the Democratic-held Senate.

Democrats have pounded away at the Medicare and Medicaid cuts, warning elderly voters who helped Republicans rout them in November elections that enacting the blueprint would destroy the popular health programs.

"Do you realize that your leadership is asking you to cast a vote today to abolish Medicare as we know it?" Democratic House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a speech on the House floor.

Ryan's plan aims to limit the potential political damage by keeping benefits intact for people currently 55 years old or over while selling younger voters on the idea that the cuts are the price of saving the popular programs.

Ryan's plan would privatize the Medicare health program for older Americans, providing payments directly to private insurance plans, and turn the Medicaid health program for the poor from a partnership between Washington and the states into block grants from the federal government.

Critics have charged that the Medicare approach is a recipe for cost controls by rationing care, and that the Medicaid plan would starve states of cash if an economic downturn forces more people to seek shelter in that program.

The two programs, enacted in 1965, reach nearly 100 million Americans and are critical parts of the fraying US social safety net, burdened by a surge in retirees and swollen by growing ranks of newly poor in the 2008 economic crisis.

Oil prices rise, bucking global headwinds



NEW YORK, (AFP) – Crude prices rose Friday amid choppy trade, as Chinese inflation figures and events in Nigeria and Libya cast a shadow over the market.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in May, rose \$1.55 to \$109.66 a barrel.

London's Brent North Sea crude for June delivery gained \$1.09 to \$121.80.

"Participants are sifting perceptions off of Chinese inflation data, rising tensions in Libya and the wors-

ening European debt debacle," said analyst Mike Fitzpatrick.

Markets were weighed down early in the session by a sharp rise in Chinese inflation and as the market awaited a weekend presidential vote in oil exporter Nigeria.

"The news from China today is having a dampening effect on oil prices because the market is expecting the Chinese government to raise (interest) rates" following the inflation data, said Thina Saltvedt, analyst at Nordea Bank Norge.

China on Friday said its inflation had hit a 32-month high, suggesting Beijing's efforts to rein in soaring costs are still falling short.

Against this backdrop and with Nigerian elections slated for this weekend many traders said the rise in oil prices appeared to be overdone.

"Any political unrest created from the polls in Nige-

ria could further increase the geopolitical risk and may retrace recent losses in the price of oil," said Nick Campbell, an analyst at energy consultants Inenco.

Nigeria votes for a president Saturday in what may be a historic moment for Africa's most populous nation as it bids to end years of vote-rigging and hold its cleanest polls for head of state in two decades



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ACCESS	CAFES	
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INN	ABBOT	LBS
BEE	LOOSE	KOS
MDS	NOES	SAN

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban res- tau-

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cui-



Keeshi Yena with plantains & vegetables

rant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

sine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the



main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is

this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and re-



so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like

sidents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

The 'Metropol Parasol' by J. Mayer H. Architects opened last month in Seville, Spain. The open-air structure houses a museum, restaurant, and farmers market.

The Metropol Parasol looks from afar like it's constructed from popsicle sticks - but it is actually built from bonded timber with a polyurethane coating (translation: extra-strong glue).

The unusual materials have given it

two unique claims to fame: It's the largest wooden building in the world, and the largest structure to be held together by glue.



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Bible-only reading at US jail



WASHINGTON (AFP) — The US Department of Justice has filed a complaint against a South Carolina sheriff for letting one of his prisons bar inmates from reading anything but the Bible.

In the complaint filed this week in a Charleston court, the Justice Department said requests by numerous inmates at Berkeley County Detention Center for everything from correspondence course materials and magazines to legal newsletters have been denied by the office of Sheriff H. Wayne DeWitt.

"Indeed, the only book, magazine, newspaper or religious publication that defendants consistently permit prisoners to possess is the

Bible," the complaint read.

Prison officers even hand out King James Bibles for free to prisoners, but a Jewish prisoner who asked for a Torah and two Muslim inmates who requested copies of the Koran were told they could only have them if family members personally delivered the holy books to the jail.

When one of the Muslim inmates arranged for his girlfriend to bring a Koran to the prison, the sheriff's office refused to pass it on to the prisoner.

The Justice Department said the practice violates several laws and the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion.

Female cruise ship captain relishes life at sea

NEW YORK - Inger Olsen, who rose through Cunard's tradition-steeped ranks to become the cruise line's first female captain, wasn't dreaming of a life at sea, or of breaking any glass ceilings.

When she signed on to a cargo ship at age 16 she wanted to earn some pocket money.

"I was looking for a job after school and on weekends," Olsen recalled from her home in Svendborg, Denmark. "I didn't have any idea what I wanted to do."

But Olsen, who grew up surrounded by water on the Faroe Islands, liked to travel and enjoyed the life at sea. What she didn't like was the cleaning duty her steward's job entailed. So she applied to become a cadet and joined the Cunard Line in 1997.

"I thought I'd do it for a few years and then go ashore and have a family," said Olsen, 43. "But one year led to another."

In December 2010, Captain Inger Olsen took the helm of the 90,000-ton luxury liner Queen Victoria to become one of only a few women cruise ship captains in the world.

"I think if you look at cruise lines there's only two or three," she said.

Her ship, which carries 2,000 passengers, is the youngest of Cunard's three Queens, joining the fleet



Captain Inger Klein Olsen

alongside the Queen Elizabeth 2 and Queen Mary 2 in 2007.

Samuel Cunard established his line in 1839, principally to carry the Royal Mail.

The cantilevered balconies, art deco details and grand ballrooms of The Three Queens hark pointedly back to the golden days of ocean travel, when the likes of Winston Churchill and Marlene Dietrich made transatlantic crossings in civilized leisure.

The 1,000 crew under Olsen's command keep the crystal chandeliers glittering, the mahogany polished and the ballroom dance floor shipshape.

"Each ship has its own

feel," Olsen said. "Once you get used to a particular ship, get the training in it, that ship seems like the best one for you."

Olsen said fulfilling the hopes of her passengers is her greatest reward.

"When people say this is fantastic, the greatest time of life, then you know that we have delivered what we promised."

The most difficult part is letting someone go.

"But that goes for any profession," she said. "The rest - the weather, the ports where there's a size limitation --- are mostly challenges."

Olsen said her voyage through the ranks has been mostly smooth sailing in fair weather.

"People have welcomed me all the way through," she said. "It's only been extremely positive."

On leave until she sails from Southampton, England in May, Olsen is enjoying the pleasures of dry land.

"When I'm home I have my house, my garden, my family," she said. "I go to concerts, spend time with friends. Just enjoy, really."

She thinks a seafaring life may not suit every woman.

"You're away for three or four months," she explained. "Most women who have kids don't want to be away for that long."

But for Olsen there's bounty in the sea lane less traveled.

"At least I can say that I've done it. I did it all the way," Olsen said. "But it wasn't really a dream, I think. It was more just circumstances, really."

Octopuses catch Clasico football fever



BENALMADENA, Spain (AFP) — Iniesta the octopus looks at two boxes decorated with crests by the Real Madrid and Barcelona football teams at the SeaLife Aquarium in Benalmadena, before predicting that Real Madrid will win the next Spanish League football match against Barcelona. Iniesta is competing with fellow octopus Iker -- who predicted a draw.

AFP/Photo

Kallis, Gambhir power Kolkata to victory



Kolkata Knight Riders batsman Gautam Gambhir plays a shot during the IPL Twenty20 match between Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders.

JAIPUR, India (AFP) — Jacques Kallis and Gautam Gambhir hit impressive half-centuries to guide Kolkata Knight Riders to a nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League on Friday.

South African Kallis top-scored with a 65-ball 80 not out while skipper Gambhir made an unbeaten 75 off just 44 balls as Kolkata achieved a 160-run target with nine deliveries to spare for their second win in three matches.

The pair added 152 for the unfinished second-wicket stand to ensure an

easy victory for their team.

Left-handed Gambhir, caught off a no-ball when on 66, cracked one six and 11 fours, including four boundaries in an over from seamer Amit Singh. Kallis hit two sixes and seven fours in his third successive half-century.

It was the first defeat in three matches for Rajasthan, led by former Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Kolkata spinners Yusuf Pathan (2-4) and Shakib Al Hasan (2-31) earlier shared four wickets to restrict Rajasthan despite a 25-ball 35

not out by New Zealander Ross Taylor.

Off-spinner Pathan bowled former India captain Rahul Dravid (35) and then held a return catch to account for Ashok Menaria (27) in the same over to put pressure on Rajasthan.

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Shakib struck with his third delivery when he had opener Amit Paunikar (nine) caught by Kallis.

He then got a big wicket when he bowled Australian all-rounder Shane Watson for 22, which came off just 13 balls with the help of two sixes.

Watson recently smashed a record 15 sixes in his career-best 185 not out in the second one-day international against Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Brief scores:

Rajasthan Royals 159-4 in 20 overs (R. Taylor 35 not out, R. Dravid 35, A. Menaria 27, S. Watson 22; Y. Pathan 2-4, Shakib Al Hasan 2-31) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 160-1 in 18.3 overs (J. Kallis 80 not out, G. Gambhir 75 not out) by nine wickets.

Top Aussie cyclist Lloyd sacked over behaviour

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) — Top Australian cyclist Matthew Lloyd has been sacked by his professional team due to his "behaviour."

Omega Pharma Lotto did not go into details beyond ruling out "forbidden products", only saying on its website that "our team's image cannot be connected to Matthew's behaviour any more".



Australian Matthew Lloyd of team Omega Pharma Lotto has been sacked by his professional team due to his "behaviour."

Lloyd, who won a stage of the Giro d'Italia last year and also won the king of the mountain category in the race, has struggled to find form so far during the current European season.

"Recent incidents during the first races disputed in 2011 by Matthew for our team made this collaboration impossible," the team said.

"We follow a policy of zero tolerance of which we cannot divert.

"For the sake of clarity: this has nothing to do with the use of forbidden products."

Lloyd's big objective this year was a strong performance at next month's Giro d'Italia, but it is now unclear what he will do.



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Mourinho refuses to talk at press conference



AFP — Real Madrid's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho turned up at a press conference Friday on the eve of his side's league clash against arch-rivals Barcelona today but refused to speak, leaving it up to assistant coach Aitor Karanka to field reporters' questions.

"Jose Mourinho will not answer any question," a club spokesman said at the start of the news conference, causing many journalists to abandon Real's press centre in protest.

Karanka was left to justify the Portuguese coach's decision to remain mute.

"Every time he speaks,

everything he says gets magnified, he does not want his words to be magnified," he said as a stony-faced Mourinho sat beside him and faced the journalists who stayed at the press conference.

Real will face Barcelona at home on Saturday in the league ahead of three more 'Clasicos' in less than three weeks, in the Spanish Cup final and the Champions League.

Champions Barcelona hold a commanding eight point lead over Real in the league with seven games left and victory over their foes would virtually seal the league title, while a draw would still leave Madrid with a mountain to climb.

Mourinho watched Sporting Gijon win 1-0 at the Bernabeu in their last home league outing to end his nine year 150 match unbeaten home league record and the Portuguese hopes to fare better than in his first Clasico when Barcelona thrashed his side 5-0 at Camp Nou.

It was the heaviest defeat of Mourinho's glittering career and both he and his wounded players will be out for revenge for that humiliation.



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Yankees hurler Feliciano faces shoulder op

NEW YORK (AFP) – Yankees relief pitcher Pedro Feliciano has a torn left shoulder capsule and could be facing season-ending surgery.

The left-handed specialist, who has been on the disabled list since the start of the season, said Thursday he will see orthopedist James Andrews on Monday, then decide about possible surgery.

Feliciano also could have an injection in the shoulder and refrain from throwing for a month

and a half to see if it improves.

Feliciano had been diagnosed with a rotator cuff strain. But an MRI performed on Wednesday showed the tear, which will probably need surgery.

Feliciano, who signed a two-year, \$8 million free agent contract in the offseason, had been a workhorse for his prior team, the Mets.

He made 344 relief appearances for the Mets since 2007, a major league record for a four-year stretch.

McIlroy charge gathers pace in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Rory McIlroy's post-Augusta rehabilitation gathered pace Friday at the Malaysian Open as he carded eight-under-par 64 to surge to the joint clubhouse lead in weather-hit Kuala Lumpur.

The 21-year-old Northern Irishman, who lost his clubs en route from his US meltdown to Malaysia, hit five birdies in an outward 31 after a solid showing in Thursday's first round of the 2.5-million-dollar showpiece.

Three more birdies followed to propel him into a share of the lead with Swede Alexander Noren, who backed up a brilliant opening round of 64 with a respectable 69.

The impressive pair were out in front with a two-day total of 11-under-par 133 at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

"Yeah, I played really good today. I hit the ball well and gave myself chances and made some putts," said McIlroy, the world number nine.

"Eleven under after two days here is a great effort considering I've travelled so far and not seeing the course. Hopefully the crowd will come out again and support us."

Englishman Simon Dyson, who has performed consistently well in Asia, is one shot adrift of the leaders after shooting a spectacular 64 which included birdies on his final three holes.

World number one Martin Kaymer again failed to get his game going and is eight shots adrift of the leaders after a second-round 71.

McIlroy was among the few golfers lucky enough to finish their rounds as lightning and rain stopped play for two hours and 40 minutes

in the late afternoon.

The weather prevented 77 players from completing their rounds.

Newly crowned US Masters champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa and reigning British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen were right on the projected cut mark on even-par through 13 holes.

But defending champion Noh Seung-Yul is at risk of missing the projected cut of even-par 144.

The South Korean, who shot a one-over 73 on Thursday, struggled with his putter on Friday and is currently two-over through 13 holes.

An upbeat McIlroy said a win on Sunday would be the perfect comeback from his Augusta heartache, where he surrendered a four-stroke lead going into the final round in a catastrophic collapse.

MLB Standings					
American League					
East	W	L	Pct	GB	
NY YANKEES	7	4	.636	--	
BALTIMORE	6	5	.545	1.0	
TORONTO	6	6	.500	1.5	
TAMPA	4	8	.333	3.5	
BOSTON	2	9	.182	5.0	
Central					
CLEVELAND	8	4	.667	--	
KANSAS CITY	8	4	.667	--	
CHICAGO	7	5	.583	1.0	
DETROIT	6	7	.462	2.5	
MINNESOTA	4	8	.333	4.0	
West					
TEXAS	9	3	.750	--	
LA ANGELS	7	5	.583	2.0	
OAKLAND	6	7	.462	3.5	
SEATTLE	4	9	.308	5.5	
National League					
East	W	L	Pct	GB	
PHILADELPHIA	9	3	.750	--	
FLORIDA	7	5	.583	2.0	
WASHINGTON	5	7	.417	4.0	
ATLANTA	5	8	.385	4.5	
NY METS	4	9	.308	5.5	
Central					
CINCINNATI	8	4	.667	--	
MILWAUKEE	7	5	.583	1.0	
CHICAGO	6	6	.500	2.0	
ST. LOUIS	6	7	.462	2.5	
PITTSBURG	5	7	.417	3.0	
HOUSTON	4	9	.308	4.5	
West					
COLORADO	10	2	.833	--	
SAN FRANCISCO	6	6	.500	4.0	
LA DODGERS	6	7	.462	4.5	
ARIZONA	5	6	.455	4.5	
SAN DIEGO	5	7	.417	5.0	

NBA Standings					
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB	
Y- BOSTON	56	26	.667	--	
X- NEW YORK	42	40	.556	14.0	
X- PHILA.	41	41	.500	15.0	
NEW JERSEY	24	58	.200	32	
TORONTO	22	60	.200	34	
Central					
Z- CHICAGO	62	20	.756	--	
X- INDIANA	37	45	.451	25.0	
MILWAUKEE	35	47	.427	27.0	
DETROIT	30	52	.366	32.0	
CLEVELAND	19	63	.232	43.0	
Southeast					
Y- MIAMI	58	24	.707	--	
X- ORLANDO	52	30	.634	6.0	
X- ATLANTA	44	38	.537	14.0	
CHARLOTTE	34	48	.415	24.0	
WASHINGTON	23	59	.280	35.0	
Western Conference					
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB	
Z- SAN ANTONIO	61	21	.744	--	
X- DALLAS	57	25	.695	4.0	
X- N.O.RLEANS	46	36	.561	15.0	
X- MEMPHIS	46	36	.561	15.0	
HOUSTON	43	39	.524	18.0	
Northwest					
Y- OKL. CITY	55	27	.671	--	
X- DENVER	50	32	.610	5.0	
X- PORTLAND	48	34	.585	7.0	
UTAH	39	43	.476	16.0	
MINNESOTA	17	65	.207	38.0	
Pacific					
Y- LA LAKERS	57	25	.695	--	
PHOENIX	40	42	.488	17.0	
GOLDEN STATE	36	46	.439	21.0	
LA CLIPPERS	32	50	.390	25.0	
SACRAMENTO	24	58	.293	33.0	

League, players return to mediation

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (AFP) – The NFL and locked-out players returned to mediation on Thursday, this time ordered by a judge to try and solve the dispute that has America's most popular spectator sport in limbo.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft were among those attending the meeting at the federal courthouse in Minneapolis.

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith was joined by lawyers as well as linebackers Ben Leber and Mike Vrabel.

It was the first time the feuding parties have talked since March 11, when the former collective bargaining

agreement expired.

At that time, the NFLP was decertified as a union able to represent the players in collective contract talks, clearing the way for the players to launch an anti-trust lawsuit against the league.

The NFL responded by locking out players, the first work stoppage in the league since a players' strike in 1987.

US Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan is overseeing this round of mediation, and players are taking part after receiving assurances that returning to talks won't prevent them from pursuing their court case.

US District Judge Susan Richard Nelson ordered the mediation, urging the two sides to sort out their differences even as she considers the players' request for an in-

junction to lift the lockout.

The league and players still must agree on how to divide more than \$9 billion in annual revenue.

The owners, who currently get about \$1 billion off the top for expenses, want to take more money before dividing the rest of the revenue with players.

Other issues include benefits for retired players and the NFL's desire to increase the regular season from 16 to 18 games.

While both sides have been told to keep the content of the talks confidential, Goodell told Cleveland Browns season-ticket holders during a teleconference that having the parties talking was a "positive step."

"We're going to make sure we have football, and more of it," he said.



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Giants' Tim Lincecum gives \$25,000 to fan fund



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum is giving \$25,000 to assist the San Francisco fan who suffered a serious head injury when he was attacked outside Dodger Stadium last month.

The donation from the two-time National League Cy Young Award winner will go to the Bryan Stow Fund to help with the 42-year-old

paramedic's medical bills and other expenses.

Stow, a father of two, was beaten in a car park outside Dodger Stadium after the teams' March 31 season opener. He remains hospitalized in Los Angeles in a medically induced coma.

Despite the offer of a \$150,000 reward for information leading to an arrest, police have not charged anyone.

"This was a senseless act of violence and I wanted to help out Mr. Stow and his family," Lincecum said in a statement Thursday. "It's also close to me because not only is Mr. Stow a Giants fan, but I have family and friends who are firefighters, police officers and paramedics and this honors their service to the community."

Nadal extends Monte Carlo run as Federer falls

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Top seed Rafael Nadal won his 35th consecutive match at the Monte Carlo Masters by crushing Ivan Ljubicic 6-1, 6-3 on Friday to set up a repeat semi-final with resurgent Andy Murray.

The Scot put out Portugal's Frederico Gil 6-2, 6-1 to reach his second semi-final in the

last three tournaments here.

He lost to Nadal at the same stage in 2009.

Like Roger Federer, who was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Jurgen Melzer, Nadal was tested by windy conditions.

"It was a very difficult day to play tennis," said the Spaniard, who is seeking a seventh straight trophy in the event.

Berto seeks to keep title, banish doubts



MASHANTUCKET, Connecticut (AFP) — Andre Berto will make the sixth defense of his World Boxing Council

welterweight crown Saturday, hoping a victory over Victor Ortiz can give him the status his unbeaten record hasn't delivered.

Berto, 27-0 with 21 knockouts, won the crown in 2008 with a seventh-round stoppage of Mexico's Miguel Angel Rodriguez.

Since then, the 27-year-old American of Haitian heritage has won unanimous decisions over US fighters Steve Forbes and Luis Collazo and Colombian Luis Urango, and knocked out Puerto Rico's Carlos Quintana and Mexico's Freddy Hernandez.

Despite his victories, however, Berto hasn't captured the imagination of fight fans and is rarely considered among such marquee welterweights as Manny Pacquiao, Floyd Mayweather and Shane Mosley.

Berto believes a convincing victory over fellow American Ortiz, who boasts skill as well as considerable punching power, would raise his profile.

"I think this fight is going to be a fight that people want to see," Berto said. "This kid is young, strong and athletic, and they know what I bring to the table."

"They want to see me tested. They think this kid is going to test me and I hope he does," Berto added. "Because I feel another sharp fighter is only going to make me sharp."

A victory would see Berto move up in the queue for a fight with Pacquiao or Mayweather.

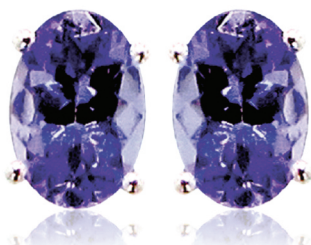
It could also get him back on track for a fight with Mosley. The two were supposed to fight in January of 2010, but Berto, whose parents are Haitian and who represented Haiti in the Athens Olympics, pulled out saying concern over the earthquake in Haiti had disrupted his training.

Ortiz, 24, enters the title fight with a record of 28-2-2 with 22 knockouts.

The southpaw is coming off a 10-round majority draw against American Lamont Peterson last December that snapped a four-fight win streak.

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